

Council of Ancients. It is from that Council I derive my powers: it is for you to take steps, — speak, I am here to carry out your measures. Let us save liberty; let us save equality!

(A voice: And what about the Constitution ?)

The Constitution ? You yourselves have torn it up. You broke it on the 18th of Fructidor; you broke it on the 22d of Floreal; you broke it on the 30th of Prairial. Not a soul respects it any longer. I will speak out. Since my return, I have been surrounded with intrigues. Every faction has approached me. And men who arrogantly describe themselves as the only patriots have urged me to thrust the Constitution aside.

(Several voices: Names! names!)

Outspokenness of a soldier — agitation — (increasing confusion and noise) victories — Constitution broken — Caesar, Cromwell, tyrant — that's all I have to say to you.— Liberty! Equality!—You forget the Constitution! — Hypocrites, intriguers — I am not — I will abdicate from power the instant the Republic is free from danger. — The God of War and the God of Fortune is with me!

(Bourrienne: Come away, general: you don't know what you are saying.)

My friends will follow me!